



# MASSACHUSETTS BAYS WINDOW

*The Annual Newsletter for the Massachusetts Bays Program* 2004



## *Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays,*

collectively known as the Massachusetts Bays, are home to a rich and diverse coastline of salt marshes, tidal flats, beaches, and estuaries that are of immense value to the citizens and wildlife of Massachusetts. Estuaries, where the rivers meet the sea, provide unique habitats for marine life, including commercially important shellfish, and are prized for their economic importance, their recreational opportunities, and their beauty.

Today, however, the Bays are increasingly jeopardized by coastal development and pollution from stormwater runoff, municipal and industrial discharges, and other sources.

Since 1988 the Massachusetts Bays Program has worked to protect and restore Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. By working with our many partners, we have made significant strides. However, much work remains. We hope the following pages will not only give a glimpse into our work, but will also encourage you to help us protect and restore the Bays' priceless coastal environment.

Image (ISS009-E-18417) courtesy of Earth Sciences and Image Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center

## From the Executive Director

Dear Readers,

Since our launch in 1988, the Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) has worked to fulfill our mission of protecting and enhancing the coastal health and heritage of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. Through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program, the Bays were designated as a "nationally significant estuary" threatened by pollution, development, or overuse.

The work to protect this magnificent natural resource has continued for 16 years now, and I'm pleased to have this opportunity to re-introduce ourselves, our partners, and our work to you to give some insight into all that we're accomplishing. In this premiere issue, *Massachusetts Bays Window* will get us all up to speed on the latest projects that are fulfilling our action plan to protect and restore the Bays (called the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, or CCMP). You'll learn about the ongoing on-the-ground work that our staff is conducting as we partner with our coastal communities and numerous agencies and organizations to clean up and protect our estuaries. You'll also learn about the development of an exciting new nonprofit partner organization called the Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association (MBEA). The MBEA will provide invaluable assistance with our efforts to raise greater awareness of the Bays and their threats. We'll also tell you about our many plans for the coming year. Finally, we'll re-introduce our hard-working staff—there have been many changes since we last produced a newsletter, so we want to let you know who we are, and who might best answer your questions and address your concerns.

I hope you enjoy the premiere issue of *Massachusetts Bays Window*. If you have any comments, please let us know!



Jan P. Smith



### State of the Bays 2004

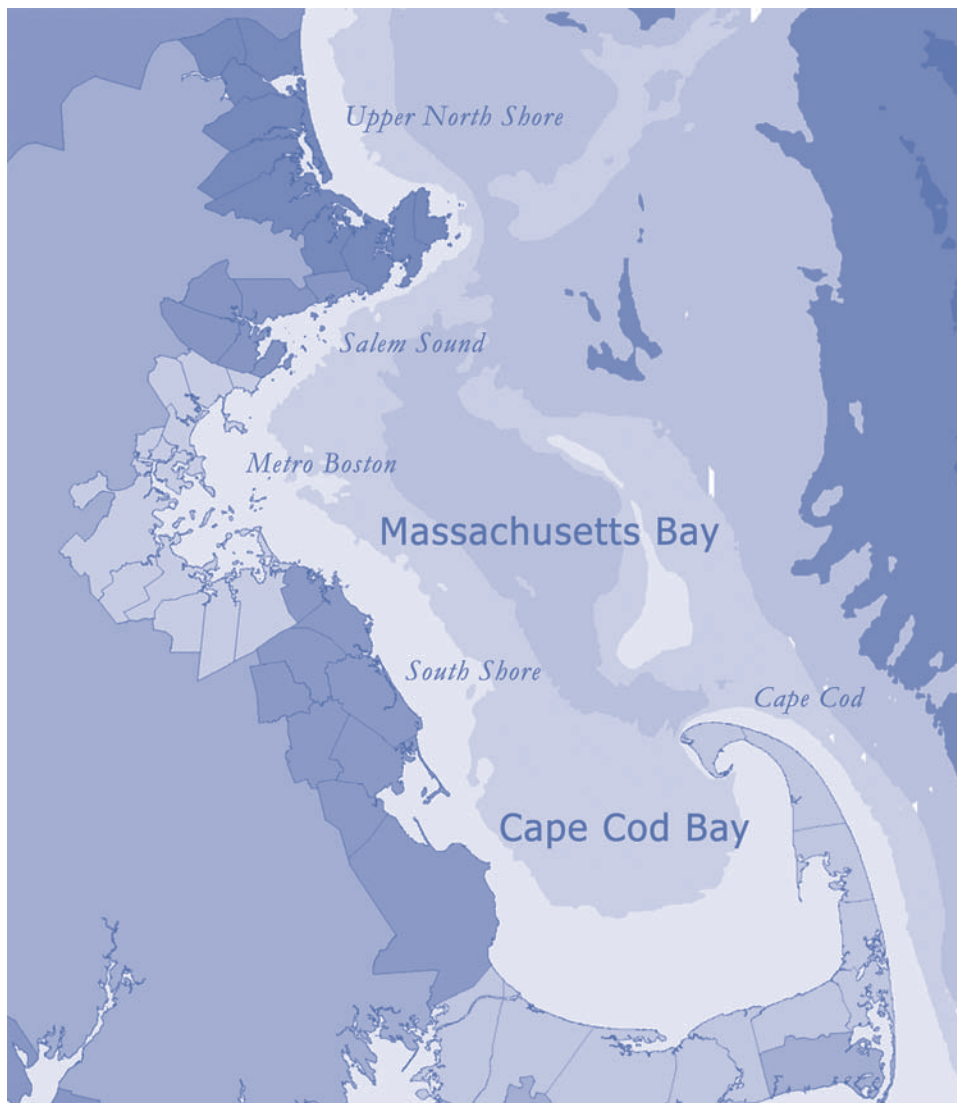
On May 6 and 7, 2004 the Massachusetts Bays Program hosted the Massachusetts Bays Symposium at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. This was the first such symposium in a decade and, thanks to all of our presenters and attendees, it was a great success. The symposium brought together coastal experts from throughout the region to describe the current conditions of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays, review ten years of progress, strengthen scientific partnerships, and refine future actions to further protect the Bays. The symposium also saw the release of the *State of the Bays Report 2004* that presents some important questions and straightforward answers about the conditions of the Bays and their surrounding lands. The symposium and report (along with a soon to be released symposium proceedings) are part of a year-long effort to develop a "baseline" of information to allow us to measure the changes in the Bays' health and condition over time. For more information, or to request a hard copy of the report, please contact us at (617) 626-1230, or visit our website at [www.massbays.org](http://www.massbays.org).



# The Bays

The Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP) is one of the largest and most diverse of the 28 National Estuary Programs, with a region that includes over 800 miles of coastline, 50 cities and towns, and over 25 percent of the Commonwealth's population. The region encompasses communities and environments ranging from rural agricultural lands to suburban neighborhoods to urban waterfronts.

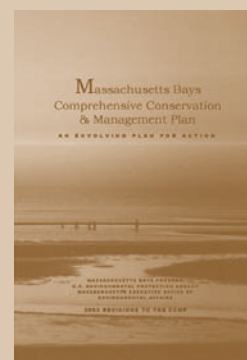
To ensure that each of the MBP's 50 communities receives its share of attention, we partner with watershed associations and Regional Planning Agencies to provide regional coordinators in five subregions: Upper North Shore, Salem Sound, Metro Boston, South Shore, and Cape Cod. This unique structure allows MBP staff to identify and solve environmental problems that require a local focus.



The 50 Massachusetts Bays Program communities (highlighted by region) bordered by the Bays.

## Updating the Plan

In 1996, the Massachusetts Bays Program (MBP), in partnership with a 300-member network called the Management Conference representing citizens, educators, user groups, advocates, Regional Planning Agencies, and all levels of government, completed the Massachusetts Bays Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The CCMP contains 17 actions (such as protecting coastal habitat, reducing stormwater pollution, managing land use, and preventing invasive species) that provide a blueprint for the MBP and its partners to protect and preserve the Bays' resources. In 2003, the MBP became the first National Estuary Program to revise its CCMP, reviewing our tremendous progress and adding two new actions to reflect the changing pressures facing the Bays. Both the original and revised CCMP's are available on our website at [www.massbays.org](http://www.massbays.org), and hardcopies can be requested by calling (617) 626-1230.



# 2004 Highlights

## Here's a look

at just some of the projects and activities that the Massachusetts Bays Program was involved with in 2004. For more information on these and other projects, be sure to call our central office at (617) 626-1230, or contact the regional staff person listed here.

### Upper North Shore



The MBP/Merrimack Valley Planning Commission partnership resulted in numerous successful projects this past year. The Eight Towns and the Bay Coalition (8T&B) developed a stormwater problem site priority list for each of the nine communities in the region. More than fifty priority sites were identified as having significant impact to the region's coastal resources, and this list will help communities to best address these sites through future projects and funding. The 8T&B coalition led projects demonstrating the value of landscaping with native plants, for example, to help spread the word about Low Impact Development (LID) and Smart Growth concepts, and how they can be incorporated into local development projects. 8T&B also sponsored the Essex River anadromous fish count (counts were up from last year but still quite low) and developed the *Boater's Guide to the Merrimack River Estuary*, which informs boaters of no-wake zones, pumpout locations, mooring, landings, and environmental issues in the estuary.

*For more information please contact Peter Phippen at (978) 374-0519*

### Salem Sound



With a diversity of coastal habitat types, and a watershed consisting of both urban and suburban communities, the Salem Sound region presents some unique challenges for those working to protect its coastline. The MBP, in partnership with Salem Sound Coastwatch, has been tackling a variety of this area's key coastal issues. Through our Clean Beaches & Streams Program, we've identified and reduced nonpoint source pollution by working with municipal officials to develop solutions and notify the public of associated risks. Through the Wetlands Health Assessment Toolbox Program (developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management), we've been able to identify salt marsh sites in need of restoration, and monitor and analyze the results of those efforts. We have also trained and coordinated volunteers to collect essential information on the presence of marine invasive species, and have conducted education and outreach on this issue of growing importance. We have conducted many educational programs for the public, municipal officials, and teachers & students to build awareness of threats to the health of our watershed and coastal waters.

*For more information please contact Rob Gough at (978) 741-7900*

### South Shore



The MBP/North and South Rivers Watershed Association partnership is committed to helping South Shore communities address the environmental pressures associated with rapid development. This year we initiated the Green Communities Speaker Series to educate and inspire land use decision makers and showcase the latest ideas that result in smarter growth and water resource protection. We continued to work extensively with communities to address stormwater pollution problems. For example, we worked with three South Shore towns to acquire funding for a high-tech streetsweeper. Our "Greenscapes" program teaches homeowners how to use less water and chemicals in maintaining beautiful landscapes. With the water departments of seven South Shore municipalities and local landscape professionals, we brought educational materials, workshops, and demonstrations to each community. We continued our work on a variety of habitat restoration projects, such as the anadromous fish passage restoration efforts at Veteran's Park in Marshfield and on the Third Herring Brook between the Towns of Norwell and Hanover.

*For more information please contact Wendy Garpow at (781) 659-8168*

# 2004 Highlights

## Cape Cod



The MBP/Cape Cod Commission partnership helped to create a new collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Americorps Cape Cod. As part of DCR's Lake and Pond stewardship efforts, we devised a pilot program for Americorps members who, after being trained in invasive species identification, were deployed to public landings on the Cape. There, they gathered data about the origins of vessels being launched into the waters of Cape Cod ponds, conducted a cursory inspection (with the owners permission) for remnants of invasive plants, and explored boat owners' awareness of invasive species issues. MBP also provided the Cape Cod Commission with technical expertise in its consideration of development proposals that required review by the Commission or by the Commonwealth. In addition, we assisted with the review of draft Local Comprehensive Plans and draft updates to existing plans to help Cape Cod communities better plan for future growth.

*For more information, contact Steve Tucker at (508) 362-3828*

## Central Staff

In August 2003 the MBP, in partnership with MIT Sea Grant, coordinated a rapid assessment survey of aquatic invasive species along the northeastern U.S. coastline. An international scientific crew visited 20 sites from Maine through New York Harbor. A total of eight National Estuary Programs participated to develop a baseline inventory of species in the coastal waters, to identify organisms that have been recently introduced into the ecosystem, and to assist managers in preventing and controlling future invasions. Public interest was high as numerous newspapers, local television stations, and The National Geographic Society visited the scientists over the course of the week. To further our work in monitoring the health of coastal wetlands, the MBP, along with Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and EPA's Research Laboratory in Narragansett, Rhode Island, has begun to develop a standard method for conducting "rapid assessments" to provide quantitative information on the condition of salt marsh wetlands with a relatively small investment of time and effort. During the summer of 2004 staff began to test the method in marshes throughout the Bays region.

*For more information, please contact the central office at (617) 626-1230*

## Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association

*By Paula Jewell, Executive Director, MBEA*



One of the most exciting developments for the Massachusetts Bays community this year has been the initiation of the Massachusetts Bays Estuary Association (MBEA) - the non-profit partner of the Massachusetts Bays Program. The MBEA organization has been a long time in the works, and as I move from being the Deputy Director of the MBP to the first Executive Director of the MBEA, I am thrilled with the potential of the MBEA/MBP partnership!

The MBEA, led by a diverse and active board of directors, will provide a voice for the Bays through education, outreach and advocacy programs. Working together with the MBP toward the goal of implementing the CCMP, the MBEA will focus particularly on public education and outreach efforts to reach new constituencies and reach existing constituencies in new ways. We will organize public events, work with local business, provide children with educational materials and use mass media to spread the word about critical efforts to stem the threats to the Bays.

The coming year will see the MBEA and MBP begin their first partnership project. This important effort, called "Storm Windows," will include developing a mass media campaign to educate the public on the effects of, and solutions to, polluted stormwater runoff. This is a truly exciting development for the Massachusetts Bays, and I hope that you will join us this year as we increase public awareness and stewardship of the Bays so that all of us can enjoy our favorite beaches, fishing spots, and vistas and give this legacy to generations to come. For more information, please call (781) 378-1610 or visit the MBEA website at [www.massachusettsbays.org](http://www.massachusettsbays.org).





# Next Year

## 2005 will be

just as busy as 2004! Here is a preview of just a few of the projects that we'll be tackling in the coming year.

### Central Staff

The MBP and MBEA will partner this year in an exciting outreach initiative called "**Storm Windows.**" This comprehensive campaign is designed to connect Massachusetts residents to the Bays by teaching about the effects of polluted stormwater runoff on our coastal waters, and what we can do to help. The program will include mass media and advertising; partnering with television weather broadcasters; local demonstration projects and volunteer opportunities; and hands-on technical assistance to communities. The MBP will also continue its work to coordinate northeast National Estuary Programs and New England states in **developing indicators** that help scientists and the public to better understand the health and condition of the Bays.

### Upper North Shore

The Essex National Heritage Commission and MassHighway are funding the **Kayakers Guide and Water Trails Map of the Great Marsh.** This web-based map will provide users with suggested routes, problem areas (boat traffic, tidal concerns, currents), access/landing areas, parking availability as well as historical and cultural sites in the Great Marsh region. Icons on the map will provide potential users with photographs and text about any of the points of interest. **Stormwater monitoring** projects are scheduled for Rockport, Gloucester, Newburyport, and Ipswich.



### Salem Sound

**Marine invasive species** often have a profound, adverse affect on marine ecosystems. Unfortunately, many of these species have a well-established presence along the North Shore of Massachusetts, particularly within Salem Sound. The MBP has responded by developing and implementing effective strategies for reducing the spread of marine invaders and preventing new introductions. In the year ahead, MBP will be working with partners to conduct **outreach & education** to specific user groups and develop a **training manual** to assist community volunteers and local resource managers in conducting rapid assessment and long-term monitoring for marine invasive species.

### South Shore

A recently awarded federal grant will allow us to develop and implement a **Low Impact Development (LID)** training program for municipal officials in the four fastest growing towns in the South Shore: Plymouth, Kingston, Pembroke, and Hanover. LID refers to a set of landscaping and design techniques that attempt to maintain the natural ability of a site to manage rainfall. LID techniques capture water on site, filter it through vegetation, and let it soak into the ground where it can recharge the local water table rather than being lost as surface runoff.



### Cape Cod

The MBP will continue to support key **wetlands restoration** work being undertaken on Cape Cod, such as Bridge Creek and Bridge Street in Dennis. We will also continue working to assess linkages between local decisions and the effects of **climate change** in the New England area, and supporting efforts to develop a framework for addressing **invasive species** through local permitting processes. We will work with Cape Cod Commission staff to produce a **conference** on sound practices for redeveloping coastal communities, hosted by the Cape Cod National Seashore, in fall 2004.

# Staff

## Our staff

is composed of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals, based in Boston and in field offices, who are committed to the protection of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. Please get in touch with us to learn even more about who we are and what we do by calling (617) 626-1230, or visit [www.massbays.org](http://www.massbays.org).



**Wendy Garpow**

*South Shore Regional Coordinator*

Wendy joined the MBP in the summer of 2002, working in partnership with the North and South Rivers Watershed Association as the Director of Community Programs. She has 11 years of experience as a land use planner working for environmental consulting firms, regional planning agencies, and environmental organizations. She serves as a member of the Plymouth Community Preservation Committee and several other civic groups.



**Rob Gough**

*Salem Sound Regional Coordinator*

Rob joined the MBP in spring of 2002, working in partnership with Salem Sound Coastwatch as the Executive Director. He works in the Salem Sound region by providing technical assistance, project leadership and coordination, education and outreach, and other services to the coastal communities' diverse citizens. Before joining MBP, Rob worked in land management and environmental education for 10 years.



**Peter Hanlon**

*Outreach and Policy Coordinator*

Peter joined the MBP in summer of 2003. His focus is on strengthening the MBP's outreach efforts to help the citizens of the Bays region learn more about the Bays, the program's efforts to protect them, and how to become more involved. He previously helped to develop the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Sustainable Watersheds program.



**Christian Krahforst**

*Staff Scientist*

Christian joined the MBP half-time in 2003. His focus is on developing environmental indicators for assessing the ecological condition of Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays. Christian is also coordinating the Massachusetts' participation in EPA's National Coastal Assessment Program. He previously coordinated the Marine Monitoring and Research Program at CZM.



**Peter Phippen**

*Upper North Shore Regional Coordinator*

Peter joined the MBP in the summer of 2002. Since that time he has been leading the Eight Towns and the Bay Committee on developing community-based projects concerned with stormwater runoff mitigation, low impact development, smart growth, and education and monitoring for users of the Great Marsh ecosystem. Peter has spent 20 years working on coastal and watershed issues for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



**Jan Smith**

*Executive Director*

Jan began as Director in fall of 1997. He has worked to lead the program into the CCMP implementation phase, and has provided technical expertise on shellfish and wetlands restoration and protection, stormwater management, wastewater issues, and invasive species. He previously worked at Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management on water quality issues.



**Steve Tucker**

*Cape Cod Regional Coordinator*

Steve joined the MBP a looong time ago. He works with each of the Cape's fifteen communities to implement the CCMP through restoration projects, reviewing planning documents and proposals, and representing the Cape's interests in broader policy discussions. Steve previously worked at the EPA as a Chief Ranger and for his hometown's Conservation Commission.

# MASSACHUSETTS BAYS PROGRAM

HELPING COMMUNITIES CARE FOR OUR COAST



The Massachusetts Bays Program is a cooperative venture of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/Coastal Zone Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



*Keep up on the latest news...*

Be sure to visit the Massachusetts Bays Program online at [www.massbays.org](http://www.massbays.org) and check out our event calendar, publications, background information on the Bays, and more!



#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mitt Romney, Governor  
Kerry Healey, Lieutenant Governor



#### Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Ellen Roy Herzfelder, Secretary



#### Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Susan Snow-Cotter, Acting Director

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This information is available in alternate formats upon request.

*Massachusetts Bays Window* was written by Massachusetts Bays Program staff; edited and designed by Peter Hanlon

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